

PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 5, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: Tirupati Press Club, Tirupati

Establishment of "Centre for Property Rights" in Tirupati to Resolve the 22A Land Victims' Crisis

Earnings and property are the foundation of human life. Saving up to buy small or large properties for a dignified life and to secure a family's future is an essential part of human existence since time immemorial. It is the fundamental responsibility of governments to recognize, stabilize, and protect such real estate. Instead of fulfilling this responsibility, it is inhumane, cruel, and unconstitutional for governments to treat people's properties as their own and arbitrarily place them on prohibited lists, preventing citizens from enjoying or selling their own land.

Particularly in Andhra Pradesh, during the digitization of land records around 2017, millions of acres of traditional *patta* lands were secretly and arbitrarily thrown into the 22A prohibited list without notifying or telling the owners. The lives of millions of ordinary citizens have been shattered as they are now barred from selling, buying, or building houses on their own lands. The severity of the situation is evident from the fact that more than half of the state's land area—approximately 1.9 crore acres—is currently trapped in this 22A prohibited list. In Tirupati and its surrounding areas alone, there are nearly one lakh 22A victims.

Voices of the Victims Countless families are facing tragic circumstances because properties bought with their lifetime savings have been added to this list. In today's press meet, 22A victims **Rajendra Prasad, Sudhakar Chowdhary, and Babu Singiri** participated to share their heartbreaking stories, bringing their plight directly to the government's attention through the media.

Launch of "Aasthi Hakkula Kendram" (Property Rights Center) To put an end to this human tragedy, the Centre for Liberty is establishing property rights centers to act as advisory, support, and advocacy hubs for the victims. The first center will be launched in Tirupati this month. We invite retired revenue officers, advocates, retired police officials, and other proactive retired employees to volunteer their services to support ordinary citizens.

- **Helpline:** Victims can contact this center by calling **79952-59898**.

Our Primary Demands

- We demand the unconditional removal from the 22A list of all properties that were added since 2010 without prior notice to the occupants/owners.
- If the respective departments believe any of these are genuinely government or temple lands, they may add them back to 22A as per law only after issuing legal notices to the occupants and receiving their responses.

We appeal to the government to immediately undertake this mutually beneficial step to protect both the victims and genuine government lands. Failing to do so, we warn that we will mobilize and unite the victims statewide to build a strong people's movement and prepare for a massive struggle. We urge the government not to test the patience of victims who have been running around revenue offices for years for no fault of their own.

Sincerely,

A.B. Venkateswara Rao
Nalamotu Chakravarthy
Babu Singiri
N.P. Suresh

Centre for Liberty & Representatives of 22A Victims